

9-1-2004

Extreme Makeover

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Recommended Citation

Stewart, Jim '76 and Register, Charlie (2004) "Extreme Makeover," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 47 : Iss. 3 , Article 39.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol47/iss3/39>

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Extreme Makeover



The James B. Duke Library boasts a stunning new look — and new capabilities.

The library of the future is open for business at Furman.

Unveiled this fall in all of its revamped and renovated glory, the James B. Duke Library boasts a spectacular new look, with almost double its former capacity and triple the amount of research and study space available to students and faculty. The facility's new wireless network enables users to work anywhere in the building from a laptop computer, with access to more than 100 databases and thousands of journals and e-books through the library's Web site. In addition, the building provides 90 public desktop computers and a study lounge open to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Janis Bandelin, director of libraries, says, "We are a library with and without walls, a library of bricks and clicks."

The \$25 million project was funded through the university's Forever Furman Campaign (completed in 2002) and kick-started by a \$9.5 million gift from The Duke Endowment, after whose founder, James Buchanan Duke, the library is named.

The first phase of the project began in 2002 with construction of the Charlie Peace Wing, a 52,000-square-foot addition that extends from the back wall of the original building toward the lake. Provided by trustee emerita Mary Peace Sterling in memory of her father, a longtime executive with *The Greenville News*, the new wing was completed last fall. It housed all library services during the 2003-04 academic year while the original building was renovated.

Despite occasional problems, notably several incidents of flooding and a lightning strike that destroyed one of the building's chimneys and delayed for a month the Special Collections department's move to its new quarters, construction proceeded apace. Although finishing touches on the building continued well into fall term this year, essential services were ready to go by the start of school in early September.

Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, a Boston architectural firm, provided the new design, and Neal Prince and Partners, a Greenville firm, oversaw construction and interior design.

The results are stunning. Patrons enter a building that is open, spacious and warm, with inviting colors, wood paneling, comfortable new furniture and a diverse mix of complementary hues and textures.



The most spectacular new architectural detail is a central stairway that serves as the focal point for the entire building. The two-story Blackwell Atrium honors Gordon and Elizabeth Lyles Blackwell, president and first lady of Furman from 1965-76, and was given in their memory by their son and daughter-in-law, Gordon '60 and Cecilia Watson Blackwell '62.

Among other significant additions to the facility:

- An increase in capacity from 400,000 to 800,000 volumes.

- A research commons with computers for database access. The area is adjacent to the heavily used reference and current journal collections and includes the research assistance desk. The Rinker Research Commons was provided by the family of Leighan R. and David B. Rinker.

- A multimedia computing commons with state-of-the-art digital imaging technology. The commons area incorporates the university's computer help desk and the Center for Collaborative Learning and Communication. The Marshall E. and Vera Lea Rinker Multimedia Commons was donated by the Marshall E. Rinker, Sr., Foundation; the Herring Help Desk by Gordon '65 and Sarah Weaver Herring '66.

- Expansion of research and study space from 300 seats to more than 900 seats, including 26 group study rooms.

- A 24-hour study area, complete with computers and vending facilities. The Hamrick Family Study Lounge was given by trustee James L. Hamrick '50, his wife, Peggy Cater Hamrick '50, and their children, Mary C. Hamrick '75 and James L. Hamrick, Jr. '81.

- Expanded office and work space for library faculty and staff.

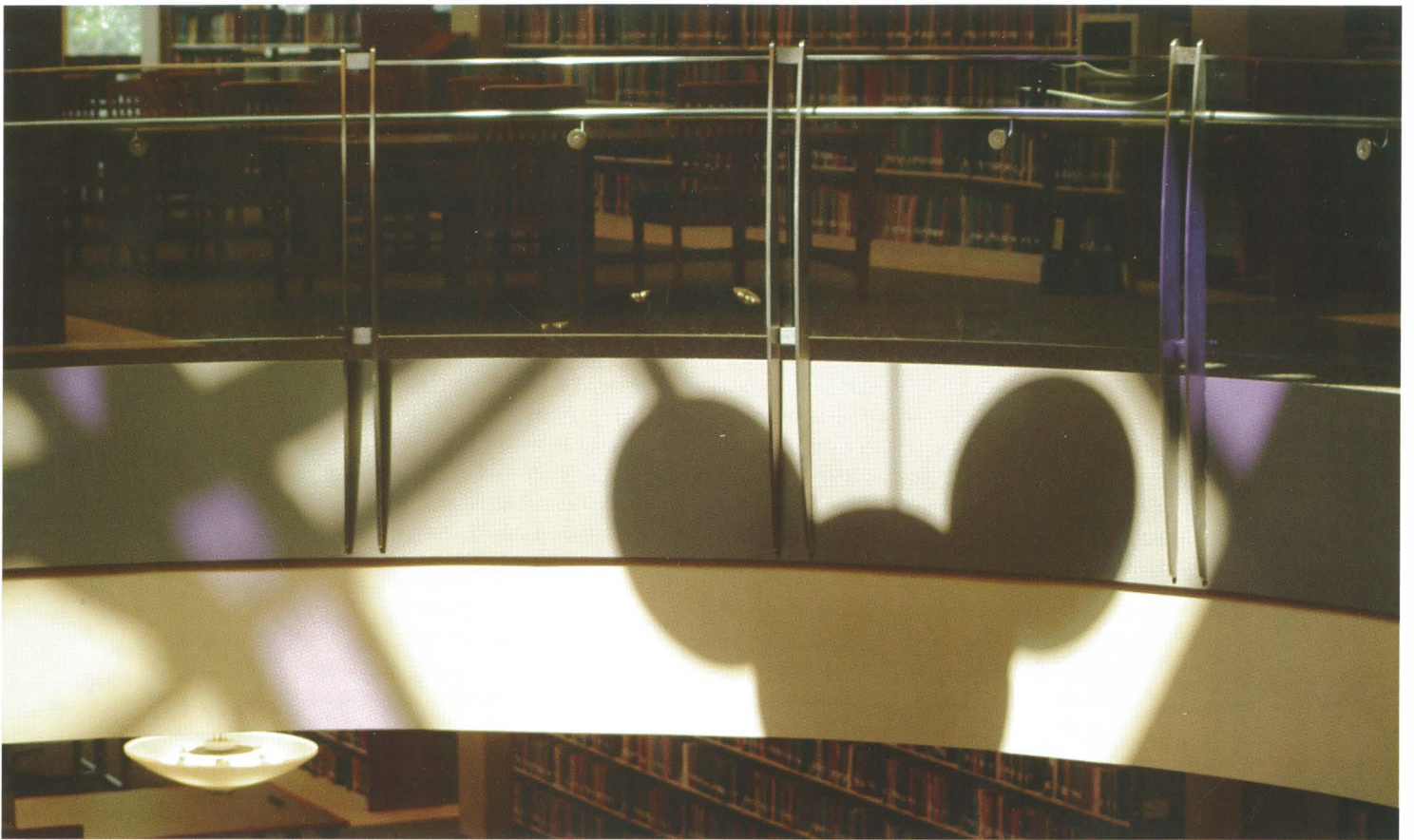
In addition, a number of environmental issues and standards were addressed throughout construction on the library, in keeping with Furman's strategic commitment to sustainability. (See page 13.)

Not surprisingly, the university has declared 2004-05 the "Year of the Library" and scheduled a variety of speakers, programs and other commemorative events tied to the new facility. The complete schedule is on-line at <http://library.furman.edu/yotl>.

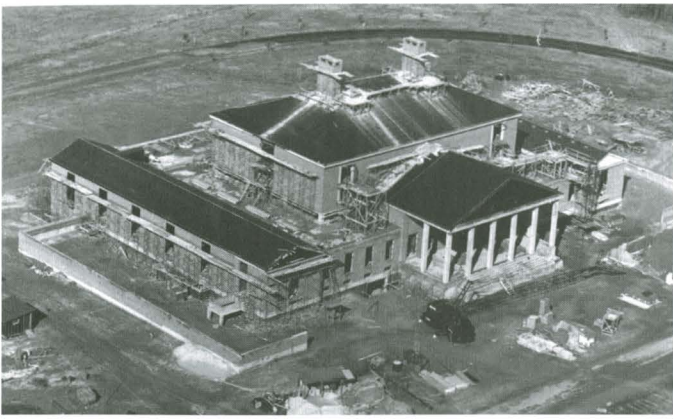
Library director Bandelin says, "Thanks to the generosity of our donors we now have one of the finest libraries among liberal arts colleges in the nation. We celebrate its restoration as the center of the university's intellectual life and as a dynamic learning environment for students."

— Jim Stewart

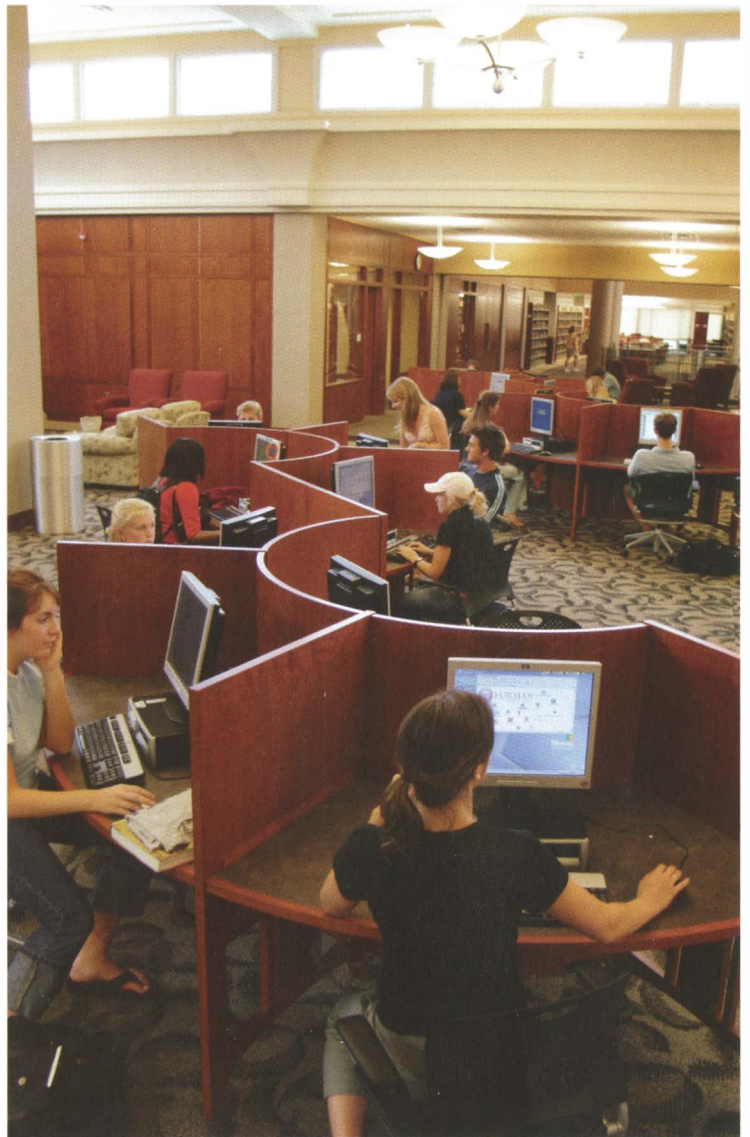
Previous pages: The Blackwell Atrium, with its circular staircase, signature skylight and open view to the main entrance, is the focal point of the revamped and renovated library.



Opposite: Patrons may use a laptop anywhere in the building thanks to its wireless network. Automatic shades on the building's west (lake) and south sides help with glare and temperature control. This page: Sunlight streaming through the atrium can cast unusual shadows; 26 study rooms allow students to work collaboratively without disturbing others.



The campus from above, with a remarkably clear view of the 52,000-square-foot Charlie Peace Wing plus an overhead comparison of the original and expanded facility; students enjoy access to countless databases, journals and e-books through 90 public computers.





This page: The circulation desk and main floor, old and new. Opposite: Night view of the Charlie Peace Wing.

The rededication ceremony for the expanded and renovated James B. Duke Library was held October 28. To view the commemorative program, which features a history of the library, list of donors, floor plans and other related information, visit the Web at <http://library.furman.edu> and follow the link.



James B. Duke Library: Green facts

- Twenty-five percent of the materials used in construction of the building contain recycled content.
- Concrete in the library consists of more than the usual cement, sand, stone and water composition. Fly ash, a by-product of coal burning, was added to reduce the amount of cement required yet maintain strength. Cement production is a high energy consumption process.
- Sensors in the building's ductwork detect the carbon dioxide exhaled when we breathe. This data is used to monitor the amount of outside air that needs to be introduced to keep oxygen levels optimal.
- Low-VOC (volatile organic compound) paints, adhesives and carpets help reduce the possibility of indoor air pollution.
- New and replacement windows have a low-emissivity coating, which allows maximum daylight to enter but blocks ultraviolet light, which can cause the temperature in the building to rise. The glass also reduces glare.
- Automatic shades are installed on the south and west sides of the building.
- An air/vapor barrier created a building skin to eliminate air infiltration and mold growth.
- The lighting in reading areas is controlled by photo sensors that measure available daylight.
- Seventy-five percent of the waste generated during construction was recycled.

Then and now: A Comparison

Facts and figures about the library from its original construction date to today:

YEAR	in 1956	in 2004
Cost of Building	\$1,788,000	\$25,000,000
Square Footage	70,000	122,000
Library Faculty & Staff	8	28
Capacity (volumes)	250,000	800,000+
Reader Seats	750	800+
Group Study Rooms	0	26
Public Computers	0	90
Enrollment*	1,500	2,900
University Faculty	70	200

* Includes graduate students

